



# South Central District Health

*Keeping your family & community healthy*  
**1020 Washington Street North \* Twin Falls, ID 83301**  
208-737-5900 \* [www.phd5.idaho.gov](http://www.phd5.idaho.gov)

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## **MEDIA ALERT**

Contact: Susie Beem, Dental Health Program Coordinator, 737-5946

### **Free Dental Sealant Clinic Offered to Grade School Children**

In an effort to improve the oral health of young children, Regence Caring Foundation for Children, in partnership with South Central District Health and the College of Southern Idaho, will provide dental sealants free of charge to students in second through sixth grade. This free clinic will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the College of Southern Idaho Dental Assisting Learning Lab in the Aspen Building, Room 182. *Great photo opportunities will be available.*

Sealants are a simple and effective way to prevent the most common type of tooth decay in molar teeth. The chewing surfaces of molars have many deep pits and fissures (grooves) where the bacteria that cause cavities hide. These pits and fissures are hard to clean with a toothbrush. Sealants are a plastic coating that is painted on the teeth to seal the pits and fissures and prevent tooth decay.

"This clinic we attended last April was fantastic," said Cheryl Carkin of Kimberly. "The hygienists and CSI dental assistant students were so helpful. The education we received that day was very helpful. I am so grateful for the agencies that sponsored this free clinic. I know the sealants have helped my children's teeth."

"Placing sealants is painless and easy for your child," said Susie Beem, Dental Health Program Coordinator for South Central District Health. "The tooth is cleaned, conditioned, dried, and painted with the plastic sealant."

Sealants only protect the chewing surfaces of the molars and will not prevent decay between teeth, in the front teeth, or on the roots. However, studies show that 84% of tooth decay in children occurs in the pits and fissures of permanent molars, areas best protected by sealants. Without sealants, 75% of lower first permanent molars decay by age 13. While sealants do not completely protect children from tooth decay, they significantly reduce the chances of decay.

**For more information about this clinic, call Susie Beem at 737-5946.**

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**(Editors:** To speak with Cheryl Carkin directly about her experience with dental sealants, you may reach her at 423-6080.)